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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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11 MARIO BATTON,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 A. ZARATE, et al.,

15 Defendants.
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Case No. 1:21-cv-00571-JLT (PC)

**ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S
REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF
COUNSEL**

(Doc. 13)

17 On July 2, 2021, Plaintiff filed a motion seeking the appointment of counsel. (Doc. 13.)
18 Plaintiff does not have a constitutional right to appointed counsel in this action, *Rand v. Rowland*,
19 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997), and the Court cannot require an attorney to represent Plaintiff
20 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). *Mallard v. U.S. Dist. Ct. for the S. Dist. of Iowa*, 490 U.S. 296,
21 298 (1989). The Court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel under section 1915(e)(1).
22 *Rand*, 113 F.3d at 1525. However, without a reasonable method of securing and compensating
23 counsel, the Court will seek volunteer counsel only in the most serious and exceptional cases. In
24 determining whether exceptional circumstances exist, the district court must evaluate both the
25 likelihood of success of the merits and the ability of the plaintiff to articulate his claims *pro se* in
26 light of the complexity of the legal issues involved. *Id.*

27 In the present case, the Court does not find the required exceptional circumstances. Even
28 assuming that Plaintiff is not well-versed in the law and that he has made serious allegations,

1 which, if proved, would entitle him to relief, his case is not exceptional. This Court is faced with
2 similar cases almost daily. At this early stage in the proceedings, the Court cannot determine
3 whether Plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits. Moreover, based on a review of the record,
4 the Court finds that Plaintiff can articulate his claims adequately. *Id.*

5 For the foregoing reasons, the Court **DENIES WITHOUT PREJUDICE** Plaintiff's
6 motion for the appointment of counsel. (Doc. 13.)

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8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 Dated: July 7, 2021

/s/ Jennifer L. Thurston
CHIEF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE